

**TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE**



FISCAL NOTE

HB 1820 - SB 1502

March 30, 2011

SUMMARY OF BILL: Increases, from \$2.00 to \$4.00, the fee assessed by the Knox County Clerk which is earmarked for computer hardware purchases or other computer-related expenses. Authorizes counties to assess a \$4.00 fee on each new case to be earmarked for computer hardware purchases or other computer related expenses.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

Increase Local Revenue – Exceeds \$180,000/Permissive

Assumptions:

- Based on information provided by the State Court Clerk's Association, there are more than 100,000 new cases, including Knox County, each year in circuit, chancery and probate court for which fees are collected.
- The Administrative Office of the Courts compiles statistics on criminal filings by the number of counts, not the number of cases. Each case may have multiple counts. The earmarked fee is assessed per case, not per count. Revenue would not be generated until fees are paid. There are no statistics maintained on the number of criminal cases or on the number of criminal cases on which fees are paid.
- Based on information provided by the State Court Clerk's Association, estimate assumes 90 percent of fees are collected for civil cases. The collection rate for criminal cases is unknown but estimated to be not significant.
- Authorizing court clerks to assess a \$4.00 fee for computer expenses in lieu of the current \$2.00 fee for data entry will result in an increase to local revenue estimated to exceed \$180,000 (100,000 x \$2 x 90%). All revenue will be dedicated to computer-related expenses.

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CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "James W. White". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "James" written in a smaller, more compact script than the last name "White".

James W. White, Executive Director

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